

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1744

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO, AORG

SUBJECT: UNESCO: VIEWS OF AUSTRALIAN MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE
BOARD ON FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

REF: STATE 034984

1. AFTER INITIAL DIFFICULTY IN CONTACTING HIM, EMBOFF DISCUSSED WITH PROFESSOR PHILP QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS. DURING FIRST CONVERSATION PHILP SAID THAT IT WAS HIS RECOLLECTION THAT PROCEDURE HAD BEEN USED IN PAST TO PERMIT MEMBERS WITHOUT SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO PAY ASSESSMENTS TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN GENERAL SESSIONS. HE PROMISED, HOWEVER, TO CONSULT HIS PAPERS AND CALL BACK WITH A MORE PRECISE READING OF HOW THE MATTER HAD BEEN HANDLED IN PAST.

2. SEVERAL DAYS LATER HE PHONED TO SAY THAT IN PAST USUAL PROCEDURE WAS FOR A MEMBER THAT WAS UNABLE PAY ITS ASSESSMENT TO WRITE TO CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE BOARD SETTING FORTH ITS PLIGHT AND REQUESTING THAT AN EXCEPTION BE MADE TO GRANT IT RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN GENERAL SESSION. PHILP SAID HE NOT SURE OF REACTION TO SUCH A LETTER FROM U.S. WHERE THE EXECUTIVE WANTED TO PARTICIPATE BUT WHERE LEGISLATURE DENIED IT FUNDS TO PAY ITS ASSESSMENT. HE SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY SYMPATHETIC TO KDEA AND OFFERED USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO EXPLORE THIS

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POSSIBILITY WITH CHAIRMAN SHOULD U.S. SO DESIRE.

3. IN SEVERAL PAST YEARS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS, AT FIRST MEETING OF GENERAL SESSION, MADE A STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS (NOT SPECIFICALLY NAMED) HAD INFORMED HIM THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO PAY THEIR FINANCIAL ASSESSMENTS BUT WISHED TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN GENERAL SESSION AND THAT HE RECOMMENDED THAT THEY BE GRANTED THE RIGHT. GENERAL SESSION ACCEDED TO CHAIRMAN'S SUGGESTION BY SIMPLE MAJORITY AND MEMBERS THAT HAD PETITIONED HIM WERE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE. PHILP SAID THAT IT HIS IMPRESSION THAT ONLY MEMBERS THAT HAD PETITIONED CHAIRMAN ALLOWED PARTICIPATE UNDER THESE CONDITIONS AND THAT IT NOT A CASE OF BLANKET RELIEF FOR ALL MEMBERS THAT MIGHT BE IN ARREARS.

4. PHILP WILL BE IN PARIS ON ABOUT APRIL 16 AND WILL BE HAPPY DISCUSS MATTER AND POSSIBLE TACTICS INFORMALLY WITH AMBASSADOR JONES AT THAT TIME. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IF HE WERE TO BE FORMALLY INSTRUCTED TO TAKE A POSITION DESIRED BY THE U.S., EMBASSY WOULD HAVE TO WORK THROUVXUNCAN CAMPBELL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROTOCOL DIVISION, DFA. WE HAVE NOT APPROACHED CAMPBELL ON THIS MATTER, BUT AS PHILP WAS IN CANBERRA ON UNESCO BUSINESS WHEN WE FIRST TALKED TO HIM WE ASSUME HE INFORMED CAMPBELL OF OUR CONVERSATION.
HARGROVE

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